

Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

cc: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commission Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker

December 8, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

This letter came together when a group of over 100 students visited Washington, DC for a week-long educational experience. The program brings students from around the country to learn about government policy making and current events. This letter is the result of a seminar on media issues and the Internet. After they learned about the issue, the students created the following comments about why the FCC must assert its authority to create strong Open Internet rules.

We are students who are very concerned about the future of the Internet. We need an open Internet to explore educational opportunities and democratic values. Gatekeepers of Internet content will harm our ability to freely explore all of the information the Internet has to offer and stifle innovation of new products on the web. We urge you to exercise the FCC's authority and adopt rules protecting the open Internet.

The Internet is important to students because it is an integral part of the education process, laying the foundation of our future. Education is time consuming, students shouldn't spend time worrying about how to find access and if they will be able to access the content or applications they are seeking. Many educational materials are increasingly moving online; classes, research information and homework. Timely news information is important for understanding the world and can be most easily accessed online. Streaming video and live chat are utilized to learn and experience education in ways previously not possible. Communication between teachers and other students is very often web based and necessary to complete assignments. Using the Internet to communicate and learn reduces our environmental impact by reducing our need for paper.

Please don't allow corporations to be gatekeepers by taking away our freedom to access content on the web or allow them to stifle speech. People shouldn't be concerned with finding alternative

ways to access the content they want. An open Internet is about our freedom to communicate and learn. Applications, specifically Skype and VoIP, are the only affordable means for some families to communicate, including currently serving American military.

Students across the country need an open Internet to pursue their education, learn, and communicate. Changes to the open Internet could severely impact our education if corporate gatekeepers are not made to operate under rules. We urge the FCC to protect the Open Internet.

Sincerely,

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